

Our Lady of

Grace

Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Fr. Ronnie Sison
Pastor

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Confession

3:30 PM English
6:30 PM Spanish

Vigil Mass

4 PM English
7 PM Spanish

Sunday

8 AM and 10:30 AM

Holy Days

Vigil Mass 6:30 PM
8 & 10:30 AM

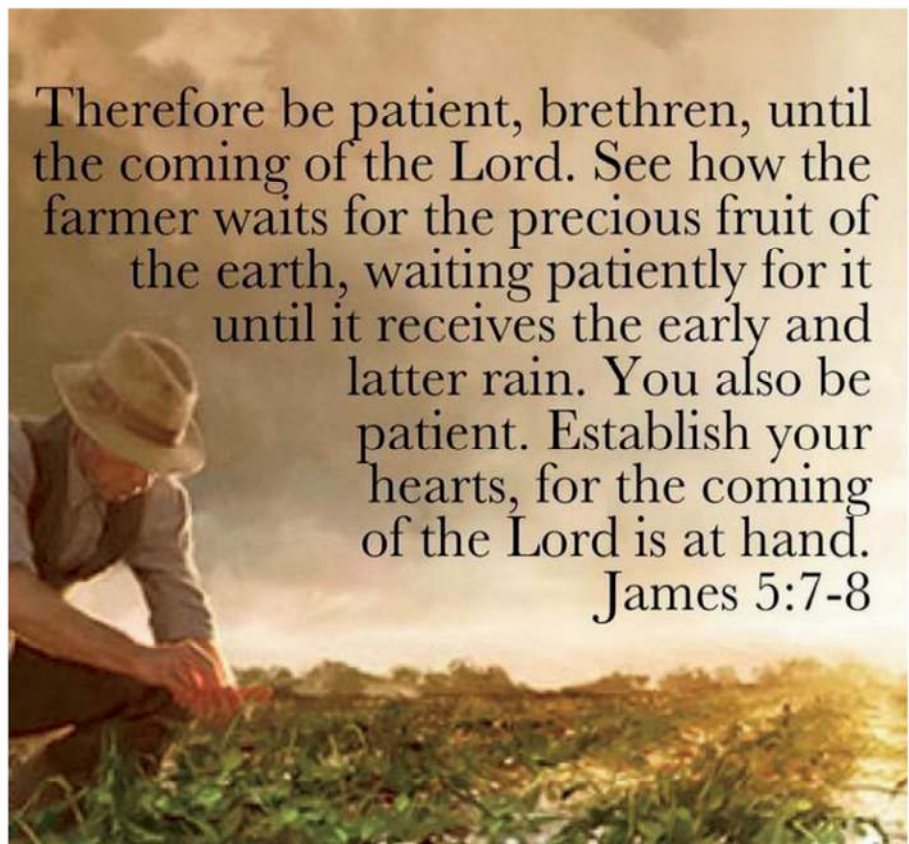
Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday
8 AM

First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

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Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
James 5:7-8

3rd Sunday of Advent

“Be patient brothers & sisters until the coming of the Lord.”

So, we may need to be patient with ourselves as God continues to work on some dominant or addictive attachment in our lives over an extended period of time. This is why James in today's second reading (James 5: 7-10) encourages us to be patient: *“Be patient brothers and sisters until the coming of the Lord.”* Let us avail of the Sacrament of Penance as part of the healing process.



Gaudete Sunday, "Rejoice always...the Lord is near"- Where? In the Sacrament of Penance, during the Advent Season.

When John the Baptist heard of the works of Jesus, he sent his disciples with a question,

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus said in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: *the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me*" (Mt 11: 2-4).

Matthew was citing Isaiah verbatim – from today's 1st reading (Is 35: 1-6, 10) - giving a clear vision of what the Messiah will usher in when he states: "Say to those who are frightened: *be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap*

like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing." In other words, the Messiah will bring salvation; he will bring healing & wholeness & restoration. **The Messiah will be a Savior.**

Healing and wholeness may **not be a momentary thing in our lives. Healing and wholeness may be more of a process which occurs over an extended period of time.** It only took **one day** for Moses to lead God's people out of Egypt. It took him **forty years in the desert** to get Egypt out of the minds and hearts of God's people. You may recall an example of this when Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments from God. When he returns from Mt. Sinai, Moses is stunned to find **God's people worshipping a Golden Calf.**

So, we may need to be patient with ourselves as God continues to work on some addictive attachment – drugs, drink, purity - in our lives over an extended period of time. In today's 2nd reading (James 5: 7-10) James encourages us to be patient: "*Be patient brothers and sisters until the coming of the Lord.*" Let us use the Sacrament of Penance as part of the healing process.

Parish Communal Penance Services

We will have 10 – 12 priests for the Parish Communal Penance Services:

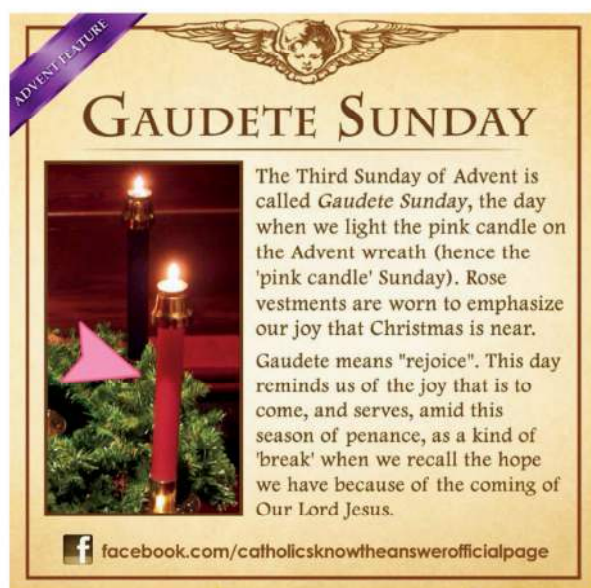
Our Lady of Grace, Avon Park, Tuesday, December 16th, 6:30 p.m.

St. Michael, Wauchula, Wednesday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m.

St. Catherine's, Sebring, Thursday, December 18th, 6:00 p.m.

Let James' words conclude Gaudete Sunday in a spirit of joy:

[With Joy] "Be patient brothers and sisters until the coming of the Lord."



"Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!... The Lord is near."

The Father greeted his 'Prodigal Son' with **great joy** and with great celebration, when he returned from his errant and sinful ways and, they were reconciled, the purpose for which the Father sent Jesus into the world then and now: *"God so loved the world he sent his only begotten son into the world, not to condemn the world, but, that the world might be saved by him."* (John 3:16). Jesus continues to do the same in the **Sacrament of Penance** today, where we hear his voice echoed in the priest's voice **"Father, forgive them..."** It is an opportunity for us to **"Rejoice"** at being reconciled with our Savior

Advent Communal Penance Services

Tuesday, December 16th, 6:30 PM
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Avon Park

Wednesday, December 17th, 6:00 PM
St Michael's Parish, Wauchula

Thursday, December 18th, 6:00 PM
St Catherine's Parish, Sebring,



What is Las Posadas?

Different cultures have a beautiful way of enriching all of us spiritually. **The Hispanic culture**, for example, has a deeply spiritual practice during the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, which they call **"Las Posadas."**

The word *posada* means **"shelter"** or **"lodging."** This Advent custom, popular throughout the Spanish-speaking world, reenacts **Mary and Joseph's journey** from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their **search for lodging** along the way. **The ritual lasts for nine days (December 16-24)**, representing the nine months of Mary's pregnancy.

A group of people travel from house to house on their route, taking the role of **pilgrims seeking lodging**. Those inside the homes are **innkeepers who refuse them**. At the last home all are invited in for prayer and refreshments. It is a prayerful way of preparing for the coming of Jesus. It is a Hispanic way of "Keeping Christ in Christmas." **It begins, Tuesday, Dec 16.**





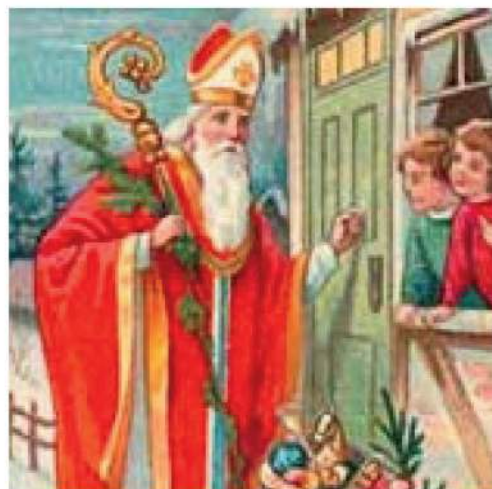
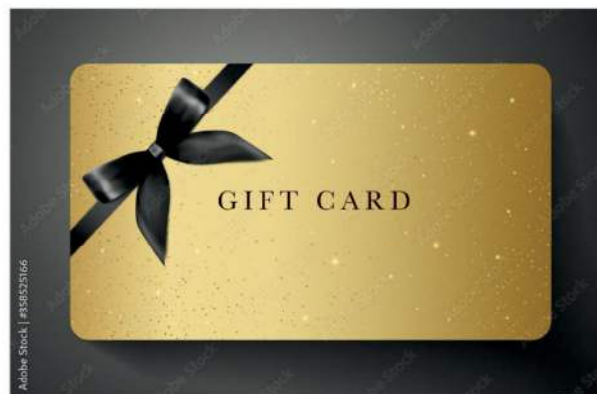
The Jesse Tree is Jesus' Family Tree

The Jesse Tree is the family tree of Jesus. **Jesse** lived one thousand years before the coming of **Jesus**. It was from this family tree that Jesus was descended. Here is what the prophet **Isaiah** foretold: “A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit.” Jesus is that “branch” that will bear fruit.

Gift Giving for Christmas at OLG!

Our traditional *Jesse Tree* is displayed in our church beginning the **First Sunday of Advent**.

There will be a box beside the tree where you can safely put your gifts. **Gift cards are most welcome and practical.** They are helpful, especially during difficult times, for many families. Perhaps, more than toys, the kids might need a new pair of shoes or clothes. The gift cards help parents decide what their children really need. You can bring in your Christmas Gift Cards any Sunday during Advent. God bless you. **Thanks,**



St Nicholas & Gift-giving – Feast, Sat, Dec 6th

Some hold that the practice of **Christmas gift-giving** goes back to the birth of Jesus, when the **Magi** brought gifts of **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh** to the stable at Bethlehem.

Others, hold that the practice of gift-giving goes back to **St. Nicholas** – whose feast day is **December 6** – it goes back to the **5th century**, when he was **Bishop of Myra** in contemporary **Turkey**.

In our time, the practice of gift-giving has been taken over by **commercial concerns**, which see it as an opportunity to make a lot of money. These gifts are more **self-centered**—What do **‘I’** get for Christmas?

The Magi and St. Nicholas give us the true sense of Gift-giving at Christmas time – it is **other centered**, as an expression of my love.



Juan el Bautista, quien podría considerarse el último profeta del Antiguo Testamento y el primero del Nuevo Testamento, también sufrió como sus antecesores. ¿Qué impulsó a los profetas a seguir adelante?

En primer lugar, los profetas tenían FE en Dios. Creían que el pueblo de Dios debía obedecer sus mandamientos fielmente y amar al Señor sobre todas las cosas. Tenían fe en que Dios los protegería y apoyaría, y que siempre cumpliría sus promesas.

En segundo lugar, tuvieron PACIENCIA. Perseveraron cuando la gente rechazó su predicación. Algunos profetas tuvieron que ser pacientes con sus propias debilidades o con su incapacidad para cambiar el comportamiento del pueblo de Israel.

El tercer don de los profetas fue la ESPERANZA que al cumplir los mandamientos de Dios, su pueblo se renovaría, junto con toda la creación.

¿Qué aprendemos de estos profetas? Primero, tenemos que mantener firme nuestra fe en Dios. Si vas a la iglesia una vez a la semana, lo mínimo requerido, sería como hacer ejercicio solo una vez a la semana y pensar que eso te mantendrá en buena forma. La oración, para nuestra salud espiritual, es un ejercicio tan importante como los aeróbicos para la salud física.

Segundo, necesitamos paciencia, y no solo con nuestros hijos. Tenemos que ser pacientes con nosotros mismos y con Dios. No esperes convertirte en un santo de inmediato.

Tercero, el don de la esperanza nos ayuda a ser pacientes porque confiamos en que Dios cumplirá sus promesas y nos dará todo lo necesario. La lectura de Isaías nos da la esperanza de que Dios nos recibirá con gozo y dicha (Is 35,10). Tom Schmidt

PROGRAMA DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Edificio McDonald

Grados Pre-K-6 Domingos

9:00 a 10:15am

Grados K-12 Miércoles

6:00 a 8:00pm

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan 863-453-7537

Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento

Martes Diciembre 16

6:30 PM



MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY DECEMBER 13**

8:00 a.m. + John Coleman.
 4:00 p.m. + Lenny Lemka by Wife.
 7:00 p.m. + Cruz Alvarez by Family.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

8:00 a.m. + Treva Magnuson by
 Ronald Magnuson.
 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Mass –
 Family of Sal & Mina by Sal
 & Mina.

MONDAY DECEMBER 15

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

8:00 a.m. Lionel & Giovani Rodriguez
 by Family.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

8:00 a.m. Caridad & Pedro Rodriguez
 by Family.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. Rosa & Samuel Soplin by
 Family.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19

8:00 a.m. + Al & Jennie Grant by Bert
 & Deb Grant.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

8:00 a.m. + Fr. Leo Frechette.
 4:00 p.m. + William & Virginia Cook
 by Evelyn Seely.
 7:00 p.m. + Faride Sarmiento by
 Family.

2026 MISSALS

The 2026 Missals are available in the
 Parish Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
 Monday thru Friday. Missals are \$5.00
 each.

2nd Collection

The second collection this weekend will
 be for the Retirement Fund for Religious.
 Please be generous.

FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Joan Morgan	Candida Reyes	Kathy Furtado
Rosa Arosemena	Andres Clavijo	Jade Jackson
Martha Clavijo	Harold Raccine	Carol Krause
Donna Skelly	Roger Brelinski	Jean Rapp
Rosemary Melinson	Cameron Prosperi	Joan Bender
Deb Perry	Martha Spung	Louise Schorsch
Donald Schorsch	Ed Carrigan	Joey Prescott
Michael Rand	Bea Pedara	Marty Worley
Sharon Ingalls	Gary Ingalls	Dennis Hood
Susan Beaudoin	Amy Slane	Jeff Babbitt
Rose Brault	Waylen James	Raffael Aversa
Jerry Grinkiewicz	Kim Nuccio	Sherry
Jeannie Stopa	Jim Stopa	Marie Burley
Rick Burley	Ron Maslyk	Kathy Reisert
Clay Gooch	Janice Vreeland	

And for those who care for the sick, for the
 deceased member's and benefactors of the
 parish, and for our loved ones.

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEETING**

The Highlands County Genealogical
 Society will meet on Thursday,
 January 8, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the
 Religious Education Building. All
 are welcome to learn about their
 family tree.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on
 Wednesday & Thursday, December
 24th & 25th. The office will re-open
 on Friday, December 26, 2025.

Parish Info Update:

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY & _____
 ZIP: _____
 TELEPHONE: _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

() New registration
 () New Address/Email
 () Need Envelopes
 () Other: _____

Staff & Ministries

Administrative Assistant

Evelyn Barcinas
Evelyn.Barcinas@ologap.org

Bookkeeper

Linda Beman
linda.beman@ologap.org

Maintenance

Maria Ramirez
Mike DeRosa

Religious Education

Director
Mayra Donan
(863) 453-7537

Music Director

Gene Ryan
mee@generyan.com

Knights of Columbus

Eric Quiel
Grand Knight
863-414-5002

Women's Guild

Debora Augusta
President
(863)991-1020

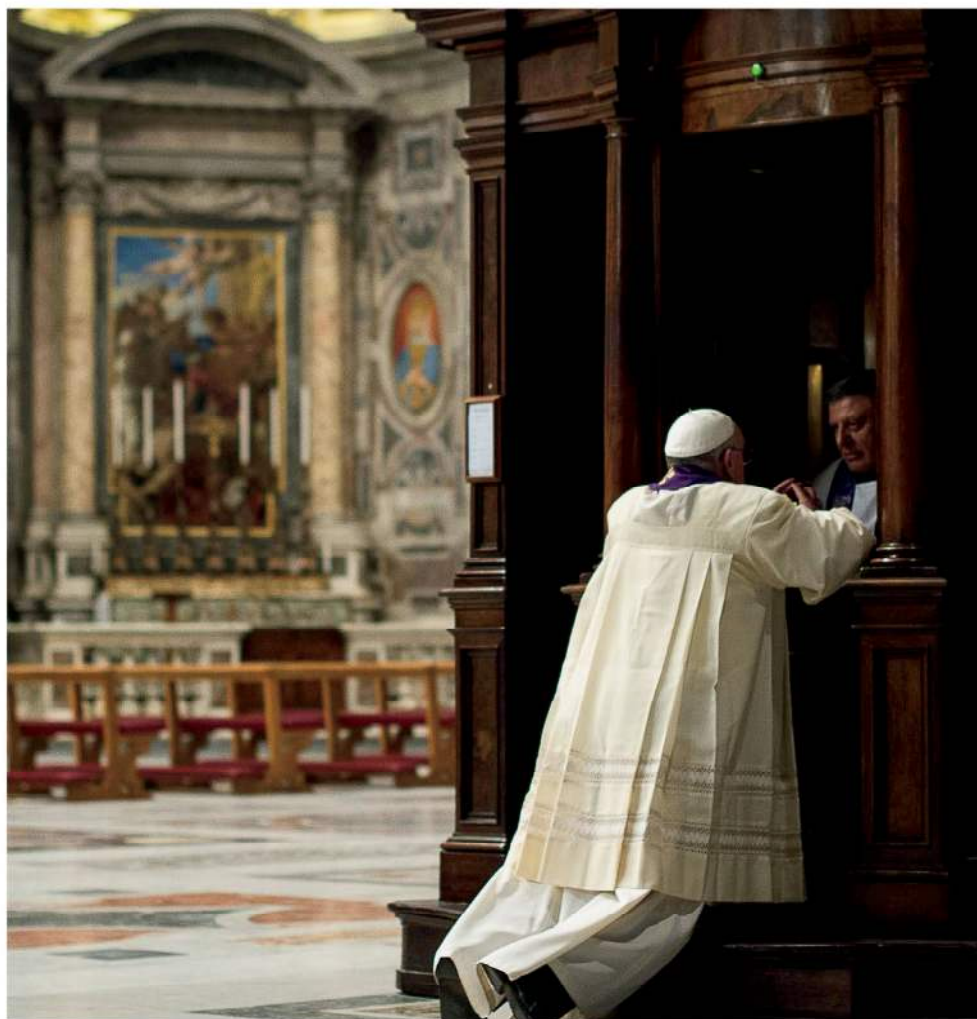
OCIA Director

Travis & Dawn Crosson
(863)453-4757

Parish Council

President

Betty Anne Lee
863-873-7176



Pope Francis leads by example

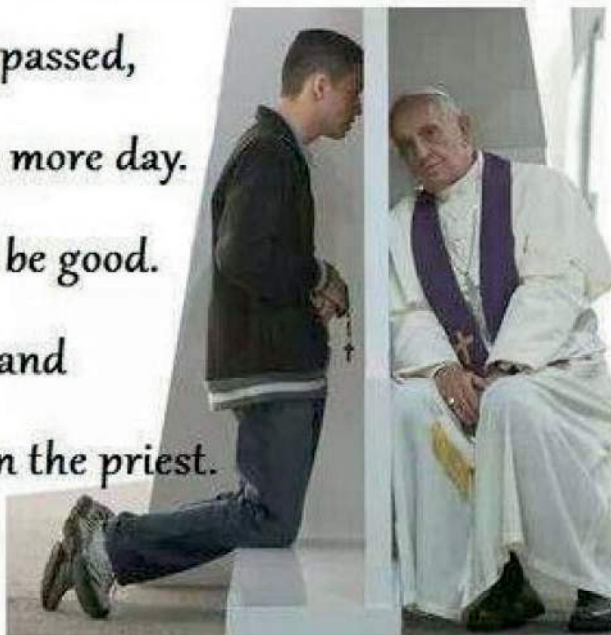
If you haven't been to confession recently, don't wait.

If a lot of time has passed,
don't lose even one more day.

Go! The priest will be good.

Jesus will be there and
he's even nicer than the priest.

~Pope Francis





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